

CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL ACTIVITIES

CULTURAL COUNCIL



The Arlington Cultural Council (ACC) is a local council of the Massachusetts Cultural Council (MCC), a state agency, consisting of resident volunteers appointed by the Arlington Board of Selectmen for three-year terms. Council members, who may serve for as many as two consecutive terms, are charged with the responsibility of supporting and encouraging the arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences in Arlington, primarily through the annual distribution of state allocated funds to applicants through a competitive grant process.

Though much of its business is related to grant cycle activities, occurring September through December,

ACC is active year-round. The ACC generally meets on the second Monday of each month. All meetings are announced in advance and are open to the general public. During 2014, meetings took place at the Senior Center and Jefferson Cutter House.

On April 7, 2014 the ACC honored the 2014 Grant Recipients at a reception at the Friends of the Drama with refreshments, displays, and speakers. About 70 guests -- including grant recipients, government representatives, cultural organizations, and Arlington residents -- attended the reception. Entertainment was provided by musicians who were grantees for different projects during the year: Scott Samenfeld, Ethan Kaczowka and Todd Brunel. Co-Chairs Karin Blum welcomed the guests and co-chair Eliza Burden introduced this year's grant recipients with a slideshow. Jennifer Atwood and Kaitlin Longmire from the Massachusetts Cultural Council were in attendance, and AIFF was recognized for the MCC Gold Star Award. Afterwards, singers from AFD performed two songs from their upcoming show, *A Little Night Music*.

In September, the ACC participated in the annual Town Day celebration and the Council also highlighted recent grantees. Council members distributed current grant applications and guidelines, and provided information about upcoming arts events.

The ACC offered a free Grant Information Session on September 22, 2014 for those planning to apply for funds by the application deadline of October 15, 2014. At the workshop ACC members offered attendees assistance with the grant application process. By October 15th, a total of 31 grant applications from schools, individual artists and cultural groups were submitted to the ACC. Requests for funds totaled over \$29,000. Following the application deadline, applicants were invited to a public session on November 5th and 6th that provided an opportunity for them to elaborate on their projects.

On November 23rd, the ACC held a day-long deliberation meeting to decide which applications would be funded. Funds available for allocation by the ACC totaled \$12,500. Deliberations resulted in 19 grants being awarded by the ACC: Applicants not receiving funds were notified by November 30th, and those receiving funds were notified in December 2014 (as directed by the MCC).

2015 Grant Recipients

A Chance to Dress (Documentary Film)	\$600
Arlington Public School Days at Dallin Museum	\$750
Art Food Community	\$1,100
Art Hunt	\$600
A-town Teen Video Contest	\$250
Belmont World Film	\$300
Elemental Art Rocks Spy Pond Park	\$1,000
Family Dance at Robbins Farm Park	\$550
I am Arlington	\$700
Images of Arlington: #myarlington	\$300
Legendary Locals	\$800
The Marble Collection	\$200
Meeting of Generations	\$600
Arlington Philharmonic Outdoor Summer Concert	\$1,200
Seniors to kids and back again	\$800
Sharing a new song	\$900
Creek River String Band live performance	\$600
True Story Theater	\$800
Two to Tango	\$450

The ACC is pleased to report that a variety of cultural events occurred in Arlington during 2014 that were funded by, or in part by, the ACC. Highlights included a performance by Luminarium Dance Company at the Park Circle Water Tower, Winfred Rembert as artist in residence at Arlington High School, the Arlington Alive Block Party, *Stop Requested*, an original play performed at AHS, and a swan sculpture at Spy Pond Park. Luminarium Dance Company's "Night at the Tower" was selected by the Massachusetts Cultural Council to receive a Gold Star Award. This was the second year in a row that a project funded by the ACC received this honor.

Plans for 2015 include the annual "Celebration of Arts and Culture" in April, Town Day booth in September, and the annual Grant Cycle, with 2016 grant applications due on October 15, 2015. This will also be the year that the ACC collects public input from the community.

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COMMISSION ON ARTS AND CULTURE

The mission of Arlington Commission on Arts and Culture is to advocate for arts and cultural opportunities throughout the town and advise the town on matters of a cultural and artistic nature (Section 2A and B). Originally established under Article 21 of Town Meeting in 1993, but not populated at the time, the Commission was re-established in January of 2013. The following have been the Commission's activities in 2014.

Name Change

A Warrant article with 10 signatures was submitted on January 31, 2014, to change name of the Cultural Commission in order to reduce confusion between the Arlington Cultural Commission (ACC) and the Arlington Cultural Council (ACC). The new name, Arlington Commission on Arts and Culture (ACAC), was approved by Town Meeting in May of 2014.

Hired Arts and Culture Liaison

The Commission hired Amy Mongeau in July 2014 as a volunteer Arts and Culture Liaison to be housed in the Town Planning department with a desk and computer, at approximately 10 hours a week. We are grateful to the Town for making room for her. Amy came to us with a strong social media and graphic design background and quickly established a new and improved Arlington Commission on Arts and Culture website, arlingtoncac.com, which lists information about Cultural Organizations in Town, a blog, a cultural calendar, and e-newsletter subscription. She has met with representatives of every major arts/culture group in Town and has worked with Planning Department/ GIS personnel, on a map displaying Arlington's cultural and business organizations. After taking a full-time job, Amy continues to maintain the cultural calendar even on reduced hours and attends ACAC meetings monthly.

Fostering Collaboration

In addition to the meetings and regular communications with local Cultural organizations in connection with our cultural calendar, a subcommittee of the Commission met with members of the Tourism and Economic Development Committee on several occasions to discuss leveraging Arlington Alive as a brand and next steps for developing Arlington as a Cultural Destination.

Cultural Planning

The Commission's bylaws charge us with recommending a long-term Cultural Plan for the Town. The Commission has taken several steps to prepare for this process.

- Commission members met with Arlington Town Manager and Director of Planning and Community Development to seek advice

about undertaking a Cultural Plan and hiring a consultant.

- Commission members met with the Massachusetts Cultural Council to seek advice on applying for Cultural District Designation.
- The Commission has met with members of ATED about possibly grants and Cultural District designation.
- The Commission spent a good part of this year researching various grant opportunities, cultural plans, and cultural districts.

Finances and Budget Request

ACAC submitted an application to the Arlington Cultural Council for a grant to cover website fees and a small stipend for our Arts and Culture Liaison, who maintains the cultural calendar, but we were denied the grant on the basis that it would substitute funding that should be supplied by the Town.

ACAC subsequently submitted a budget request to the Town to cover operational costs, including maintenance of ACAC website and calendar, as well as a Cultural Planning Consultant.

Participation in the Master Plan Process

ACAC met with Arlington's Senior Planner to learn how best to make a relevant contribution to Arlington's Master Plan. On her advice, ACAC submitted comments on the White Papers to the Town's Economic Development Coordinator pertaining to Historical and Cultural Resources and Economic Development. Various members have also participated in the Master Plan public meetings and have submitted feedback. We have also made the suggestion that a Cultural Plan be made part of the Master Plan process as the use of land and buildings should be informed by potential cultural uses in order to maximize their economic benefit to the Town. To this end, ACAC hopes to hire a Cultural Planning consultant to help create a Cultural Plan to follow as closely as possible to the Master Plan.

Being a Town Resource on Matters of Arts and Culture

The Commission participated in the juried selections of Holiday Windows in several categories. The Commission also submitted the nomination of Pamela Powell to the Poet Laureate Screening Committee.

Forming an Advisory Board

The Commission has not yet formally formed an advisory board but Commission members have consulted with members of the Massachusetts Cultural Council, the Cambridge Arts Council, and the Somerville Arts Council, as well as members of other Arlington organizations for advice and is considering approaching these individuals to become Advisory Board Members.

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HISTORICAL COMMISSION

The Arlington Historical Commission (AHC) was established in 1970 to preserve and protect significant buildings within the Town that constitute or reflect distinctive features of the architectural, cultural, political, economic or social history of the Town. This work is described in the By-Laws of the Town of Arlington, Title VI, Article 6. To accomplish these goals, the Commission maintains an *Inventory of Historically and/or Architecturally Significant Properties* and administers the demolition delay bylaw through formal public hearings and informal meetings with owners of inventoried properties. The Commission is an advocate for historic preservation in Arlington. The AHC schedules meetings on the first Tuesday of the month, when there is official business, at the Whittemore-Robbins House and all meetings are open to the public.

Hearings and Property Monitoring

The Commission conducted formal hearings on six inventoried properties in 2014:

70-72 Beacon Street, 1173 Massachusetts Avenue, 64 Park Street, 18 Robin Hood Road, 129 Lake Street, 11 Teel Street, and three informal hearings on inventoried properties.

Oversight on the properties from 2011-13 hearings continued throughout the year. Monitored properties included the ones listed above plus 85 Beacon Street (demolition delay), 41 Kensington Road, 30 Franklin Street, 246 Park Avenue, 13 Winter Street, and the Whittemore-Robbins House Cottage (670R Massachusetts Ave.).

Historic Markers

The historic house marker program is for all Arlington properties on the *Inventory*. Each plaque displays the year the property was built and a historic house name, if any.

Web Site

The Commission continues to maintain its own web site that provides a copy of the *Inventory of Historically and/or Architecturally Significant Properties* and describes the process for hearings before the Commission as well as listing our publications and projects. www.arlingtonhistoricalcommission.org.

Education and Outreach Throughout the year, Commissioners participate in activities that educate and inform citizens about historic preservation. The AHC participated in Town Day with a booth.

Other Activities

The Commission continues to work with Town agencies on the maintenance/restoration of the Whittemore-Robbins House and its outbuildings, Winfield Robbins Memorial Gardens, and Town Hall and its grounds.

Commissioners represented the Historical Commission on various municipal boards and historic organizations in Arlington, including the Arlington Preservation Fund, the Arlington Historical Society, and the Arlington Committee on Tourism and Economic Development.

HISTORIC DISTRICT COMMISSION

The Historic Districts Act, M.G.L. Chapter 40C, was created to protect and preserve the historic resources of the Commonwealth through a local review system that encourages and ensures compatible improvement and development. Over 340 Local Historic Commissions across Massachusetts are already established and working closely with the Massachusetts Historical Commission. They serve as local preservation advocates and as an important resource for information about their community's cultural resources and preservation activities.

Arlington has seven established historic districts that include 351 properties that the community has recognized as unique resources worthy of protection. The seven districts and the dates they were established or most recently enlarged are: Avon Place, 1996; Broadway, 1991; Central Street, 1982; Jason/Gray, 1998; Mount Gilboa/Crescent Hill, 1991; Pleasant Street, 2006; and Russell, 1983.

The Arlington Historic District Commission (AHDC) is required by law to review the architectural appropriateness of most proposed exterior design changes, whether they be a minor alteration, new additions, or removal of trim or structures. The Commission consists of qualified volunteers appointed by the Board of Selectmen and always includes a property owner or resident of each District (if one is willing to serve), an architect, a real estate professional, and a representative from the Arlington Historical Society. During 2014 the Commission met twelve (12) times to hold hearings for property owners seeking approval for certificates for exterior work to be conducted on their properties and also one (1) time jointly with the Arlington Historical Commission (AHC). Part of the regular meetings included seventeen (17) Informal Hearings held for property owners seeking advice or resource information for work to be conducted and twenty (20) Formal Hearings. As a result of those meetings and additional CONA applications not requiring a hearing, twenty-one (21) Certificates of Appropriateness (COA), and thirty-eight (38) Certificates of Non-Applicability (CONA) to be undertaken were granted.

During the year the Commissioners also worked on educating the public on the role of the Historic District Commission, updating maps of these districts and on the Town's new Master Plan.

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Commissioner Changes in 2014

Jodi Black left AHDC in 2014 and the now vacant 2 at-large seats were advertised publicly. The AHDC is expecting to fill those vacancies in early 2015.

CYRUS E. DALLIN ART MUSEUM

The Cyrus E. Dallin Art Museum has had a very productive year completing its Strategic Plan, receiving and finalizing a Conservation Assessment Program grant, and offering many activities and programs for visitors of all ages.



Activities

Organized on the lawn of the Jefferson Cutter House during Arlington Town Day, Art on the Green 2014 had its best year yet. Twenty-four artists/vendors offered their works for sale. Ceramicists, jewelers, textile artists, painters of oils and acrylics, photographers, and mosaic crafters offered a colorful display of original works. Dick Haley Bookseller's booth hosted a dozen local writers including Megan Marshall Pulitzer Prize winning author of "Margaret Fuller," Rosalie Meropol with her beautifully illustrated children's book "Upside Down Garden," and Hiawatha Bray, Boston Globe writer and author of "You Are Here." Robin Henzer and her quartet played Classical music on the green. The sponsorship of this year's event by the John Mirak Foundation was a bonus since the museum is fortunate to be housed in the historic building that the foundation donated to the town. Because of the continued support of our local merchants and restaurants, the museum's town day raffle was a great success.

Fifty-five prizes were drawn along with the grand prize of \$100. Proceeds from the raffle support the museum's sculpture workshop for first - fourth graders. The Children's Sculpture Workshop, held during February vacation, offers an age-appropriate tour of the galleries by museum docents and a hand-building sculpture class during which children build armatures and work with clay to create their own animals and other figures. This has been the most popular of our children's events. "Chairful Where You Sit 2014" was a temporary outdoor exhibit of 96 colorful, creative chairs placed on the green in front of the museum. The event took place July 18 - 20. On Saturday family activities, sponsored by the museum,

included gallery tours and scavenger hunts with prizes for the children.

A May Walking Tour of sites described in "Arlington's Cultural Heights: 1900-1925" included the Water Tower at Park Circle and Oakland Ave. where the Dallins, Globe editor Edward F. Burns and poet Nixon Waterman lived. People, places and history on this side of Massachusetts Avenue were highlighted. The tour was the sister tour to the October 2013 walk of the Crescent Hill neighborhood. Docents continue to offer adult and student tours throughout the year with consideration for each group's special interest.

Awards

The 2014 Arlington Community Media, Inc. (ACMI) Award for "Preserving Legacies" was awarded for the twelve minute video presentation "Beyond Museum Walls" produced by Geri Tremblay and Jonathan Barbato. This award "applauds...efforts to keep our local history fresh and accessible [as] our experience of the present is made richer by our understanding of the past." "Beyond Museum Walls" includes Arlington's "Menotomy Hunter," "Robbins Memorial Flagstaff" and "The Teacher Mary Scanlan" in front of the former Crosby School. The video can be seen on ACMI's website.

The 2014 New England Museum Association (NEMA) Publication Design Award was given to "Arlington's Cultural Heights: 1900-1925" by Sarah Burks, Doreen Stevens and Aimee Taberner.

Conservation Assessment Program (CAP) Grant

The Conservation Assessment Program is supported through a co-operative agreement between Heritage Preservation (an independent public policy organization dedicated to cultural and historic preservation) and the Institute of Museum and Library Sciences (a federal agency supporting these institutions.) The Cyrus E. Dallin Art Museum, Inc. was awarded a CAP grant which funded an assessment by professional conservators of the museum's collections, environmental conditions, and the condition of the Jefferson Cutter House. This report identifies conservation priorities and helps develop strategies for better collections care, long term collections and preservation planning, and fundraising. The architectural CAP report was presented to the Board of Selectmen at its November 24, 2014 meeting.

Events

Robbins Library hosted a book release event at the Dallin Museum and the Arlington Historical Society completed a joint research project and publication of a new local history book, "Arlington Cultural Heights: 1900-1925." The project was supported in part by a

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grant from the Arlington Cultural Council, a local agency, which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency. Co-authors Sarah Burks, Doreen Stevens, and Aimee Taberner compiled the biographies of over 40 men and women who lived and worked in Arlington Heights and Crescent Hill between 1900-1925. These residents were a creative, middle class community shaped by an influential group of reformers, educators, writers, craftsmen, musicians, actors, playwrights, and architects.

"Dallin's Female Personifications of Victory," a gallery talk by Christine Sharbrough, presented his use of allegory in sculpture. Several works in the museum, the "Arlington World War I Memorial," "Allegory of Massachusetts," the "Angel Moroni" and "Victory 1919" illustrate Dallin's talent to depict art, history, and symbolism in each of these masterpieces.

The Arlington Book Festival celebrated the art of the written word at the Robbins Library. Co-authors Aimee Taberner and Sarah Burks attended and represented their newly completed history, "Arlington's Cultural Heights: 1900-1925" which is available for purchase on the museum's website.

"New Acquisition Unveiling and Publication Celebration" was a special reception for members in December. Glenn Doherty (the Dallins' great grandson) and his wife Barbara Milhender donated an impressionistic painting "Native Chief and the Wasatch Mountains," signed by Dallin and dated 1892. The oil illustrates a Native American on horseback raising his spear in salute. The Chief and his horse stand in a field of sagebrush with trees and tee-pees lining a distant river. The scene is in Springville Utah where Cyrus was born and lived with his family. His beloved hometown was the source of inspiration for sculptures of Native Americans and paintings of Western landscapes. The museum is very appreciative of this gift which honors another dimension of Dallin's versatility. "Arlington's Cultural Heights: 1900-1925," was spotlighted for the Dallin family, members, docents, and other guests.

Goals Achieved

- Completed the Strategic Plan with the assistance of Laura Roberts, a non-profit manager and consultant who led a professional process to identify short and long term goals. The plan was unanimously accepted by the museum boards and presented to the Board of Selectmen at its November 24, 2014 meeting.
- Completed a Conservation Assessment Program for the Jefferson Cutter House and the museum collections.
- Published "Arlington's Cultural Heights: 1900-1925" in partnership with the Arlington Historical Society.

- Published "The Scout," a newsletter for museum members. This edition included James McGough's "Dallin's Civil War Sculptures and Monuments," photographs of Arthur Dallin's stain glass windows in the Park Avenue Congregational Church, the recovery of the "Praying Knight," and book release of "Arlington's Cultural Heights: 1900-1925."
- Offered unique programs to those of all ages in Arlington and the larger community.

Goals Projected

- Execute short- and long-term goals of the Strategic Plan.
- Execute recommendations cited in the Conservation Assessment Program.
- Pilot Arlington Public School Days program with the Bishop and Hardy Elementary Schools. Developed in partnership with the Arlington School District, the program will enrich the K-5 curriculum through engaging, family-oriented activities at the museum.
- Create space for changing exhibits.

The museum is located in the Jefferson Cutter House 611 Mass. Ave. in Whittemore Park. Contact the museum at: www.dallin.org or info@dallin.org or call 781-641-0747.



Jefferson Cutter House